

parishes walking about meeting people and knocking on doors. One such occasion gave him quite a surprise when he called at a house where the door was opened by a customs officer who announced he too was DD - "not Doctor of Divinity but on Detached Duty from Liverpool to Dover" as happened in the summer months. Father Bill was quite taken by the humour of the situation. He was courteous, kind, compassionate and driven by a desire to reach out to the marginalised and isolated from the institutionalised church. He caused a sensation in the 1950s and 1960s by taking his mission to the motorbike gangs. In so doing he recaptured a spirit of ministry the modern church, so inward looking and focussed on the management of terminal



decline, should well try to recapture for in that lies growth rather than the perpetual decline of self preservation. Bill never married and, despite his celebrity status, never forgot that first and foremost he was a priest of the church of God which was his strength and his joy. It was in that role that he made a lasting impression on the people to whom he ministered and in the communities in which he served. Despite his renown he remained a humble parish priest rather than having climbed the hierarchy of clerical careerism and in that he would have been well satisfied, knowing that the most valued recognition was to be aware he was faithful to the calling to which he came in the war years - the service of Almighty God. May he rest in peace.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

**Autumn 2009**

Many members have let me have their email addresses. This has allowed the Society to provide them with updates and information in between issues of our newsletter. I have sent them notification of and an invitation to attend our meeting with Sea Change Dover representatives and of the River Dour Steering Group. I have sent minutes of the Sea Change meeting and will send out minutes of the Dour Group.

We took a straw poll of members' preferences for the Christmas Feast via our members on the email register. The poll was very helpful and resulted in a change to a hot first course followed by cold puddings.

Anyone who would like to be sent Society news via email please contact me on [jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com](mailto:jeremycoppe@willersley.plus.com) . You will receive only Society news and nothing else.

*Sheila R. Cope*